



Key: \rightarrow , the direction of gene transcription; \blacksquare , exons; \square , CpG islands; \blacktriangle , dispersed MIR repeats; \square , other SINE elements; and \blacksquare , long terminal repeats. The nucleotide sequence of the *Xist* gene and the surrounding DNA for each species is plotted on the x axis. Arrangement of dots on the y axis reflects the homology level between the sequence of rat and mouse in the range of 50 to 100% (the higher is the dot position, the higher is the homology).